

SENATE BILL 3610

By Burchett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56,
relative to health insurance coverage of weight
loss surgery and medications.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, Part 23, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

56-7-2368.

(a) All individual and group health insurance policies providing coverage on an
expense incurred basis, individual and group service contracts issued by a health
maintenance organization, all self-insured group arrangements to the extent not
preempted by federal law and all managed health care delivery entities of any type or
description, that are delivered or issued on or after January 1, 2004, in this state shall
include coverage for weight loss surgeries and weight loss medications for an individual
as approved by the individual's physician.

(b) The benefits required by this section shall be subject to the annual deductible
and co-insurance established for all other similar benefits within the policy or contract;
provided, that the annual deductible and co-insurance for the benefits required by this
section are no greater than the annual deductible and co-insurance established for all
other similar benefits within that policy or contract of insurance.

(c) Nothing in this section shall apply to the TennCare program administered
pursuant to the waivers approved by the United States department of health and human
services, to accident-only, specified disease, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement,
long-term care or other limited benefit health insurance policies.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, and shall apply to contracts entered into or renewed on and after July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.